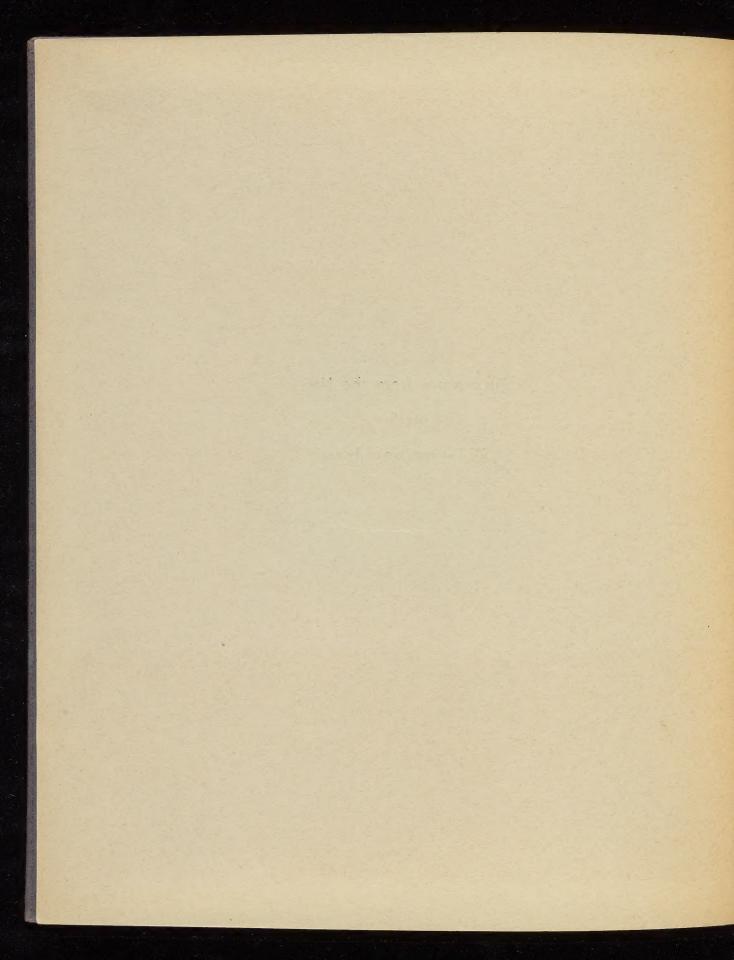


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FIFTY PLATES

FROM MSS. IN THE R. MEDICEAN LAURENTIAN LIBRARY
WITH PREFACE AND ILLUSTRATIVE NOTES
BY D.R GUIDO BIAGI

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PREFACE

These reproductions from one of the most notable Italian collections may well, I deem, furnish useful material for the yet unwritten history of miniature painting in relation to illuminated manuscripts. Up to the present this history has been neglected both by bibliographers and art critics, as the ornamentation of books comes neither within the scope of palaeography nor within that of the history of painting. The miniatures which are preserved in the Medicea Laurenziana and rank among its most vaunted treasures, are in such number and of such great worth as of themselves to provide materials for a fine and rich collection of reproductions. They range from the VI cent. to the XVIII cent., and contain examples of every age and every school. For this volume, the first of a series which it is hoped may comprehend miniatures and valuable manuscripts in various Italian collections, I have selected only a few of the most characteristic that are to be seen in the glazed cases, at present all too scarce, in the Laurenziana, whose treasures it is my ambition to expose in an ordered Exhibition that shall form the Museo del Libro, when the Salone di Michelangiolo is to have its completion in the Tribuna, designed by the artist and which I ardently desire to see erected as the first saloon of the future Museo.

In compiling this Album we have followed the example

set by the British Museum in its Reproductions from Illuminated Manuscripts edited by George F. Warner, and I have endeavoured to give a short and complete description explanatory of the brief notes placed below each facsimile.

To describe the various collections of the Laurenziana. whence the originals here reproduced have been taken. would be useless for those with knowledge of such, and tedious for those without. It is sufficient to recall that this notable collection - begun by Cosimo pater patriae while still a young man (in whom the love of books had been instilled by Ambrogio Traversari, the little monk of the Angioli who was one of the founders of Humanism in Florence), enlarged and enriched by the Medici, citizens and rulers of the Republic, and again by the Medici, Grand Dukes, and by the House of Lorraine, and lastly by the Italian Government with the addition of the celebrated Ashburnham MSS. — is still preserved and to be admired in the old Medicean seat, erected by Buonarroti, here by the side of the Church of Brunellesco and the Medicean sepulchres. The ancient tree of the old humanistic culture flourishes and grows green again, envied and admired by foreigners, while unknown or almost unknown to the great majority of Italians, who are ignorant of the golden age of books, when books were held in high esteem as a treasure-house of knowledge worthy of every adornment that art could bestow.

GUIDO BIAGI.

The Medicea Laurenziana
Easter 1914.

LIST OF PLATES

I-III. Evangelia Syriace conscripta. MS. on vellum. VI cent. 336 mm. \times 266 mm. (Laur. Plut. I. 56).

This is the celebrated Syrian MS. written by the monk Rabula; it came from the monastery of St. John of Zagba in Mesopotamia, and bears the date A.D. 586. The miniatures occupy fourteen leaves, of which the first, second and last are pasted in on modern guards. In this MS. a complete representation of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection (plate I) occurs for the first time, and of such reality and precision in the manner of its execution as almost to make it a model for the Christian artists of the succeding ages. Following this, come the Ascension (plate II), and Christ between two bishops and two monks (plate III). It may be said that, in this portraval of the great scenes of the Christian faith, religious iconography possesses one of its first documents. The name "Loginos", written in Greek uncial characters above the figure of the centurion in the first miniature, has given rise to the thought that the MS. may have been copied from a Greek original. But the influence of the sculptural art apparent in the figure of Christ, similar to those seen in the apses, and in general throughout the ornamentation, would rather lead to the belief that these miniatures were copied from the mosaics in the sanctuaries of Palestine. In any case it is also evident from this MS. that the art of Syria and Palestine was not without influence on Byzantine and Western art.

IV-VII. VETUS ET NOVUM TESTAMENTUM. MS. on vellum. VII-VIII cent. 500 mm. × 340 mm. (Laur. Amiatino I).

This is one of the most precious MSS. of the Vulgate, and came to the Laurenziana from the Abbey of San Salvadore on Monte Amiata. It is well established that it was written in Northumbria by order of Ceolfrid, abbot of St. Paul's at Jarrow and a disciple of St. Benediet Biscop. From an antiqua translatio which he brought back with him from Rome, on his fourth journey with Benedict in 678, he caused three copies to be made. The Amiatino MS., copied at Jarrow under the direction of the Venerable Bede, is the same copy that Ceolfrid on his last journey to Rome, in 715, desired to present to Pope Gregory II. Ceolfrid died on his way there, at Langres in 716, but his wish was carried out by his disciples, and from Rome, at the close of the IX cent. or the beginning of the X cent., the MS. was transferred to the monastery of Monte Amiata. The abbot of the monastery erased the name of Ceolfridus Anglorum from the inscription, putting his own, Petrus Langobardorum, in its place, and changed the words Corpus and Petri, in the first two lines of the inscription into the words Cenobium and Salvatoris. Through the surmises and researches of De Rossi, G. F. Browne, S. Berger and Dr. Hort it has been possible to re-integrate the original inscription. The MS. contains the entire Latin Bible except Baruch, with the proem to every book. In the octavo preceding the text, which is supposed by some critics to be of Cassiodorian origin and which contains a page on a purple ground, are the inscription of Ceolfrid (plate IV), three tables of the Canon of the Old and New Testament (plate V), a plan of the Tabernacle and a miniature representing Ezra (plate VI) restoring the sacred MSS. At the beginning of the New Testament there is a miniature (plate VII) representing Christ in glory in the centre of the heavens blessing the world: at the corners are the four Evangelists.

VIII-IX. EVANGELIARIUM. MS. on vellum. XI cent. 245 mm. × 357 mm. (Laur. Acquisti e Doni 91).

This MS., written in two columns in a minute upright hand, has rich ornamental initial letters in various colours and five large miniatures of the Byzantine school representing the four Evangelists with their symbols and the Ascension of Christ. Plates VIII and IX represent St. Matthew and St. Luke. The postils and marginal notes are of the XIV cent.

X-XII. S. Augustinus, De Civitate Dei. MS. on vellum. XII cent. 248 mm. \times 357 mm. (Laur. Plut. XII. 17).

This MS. which belonged to Pietro di Cosimo dei Medici, as shown by the writing «Liber Petri de Medicis Cos. fil'. », is written in minute Carolingian characters by several hands. The four miniatures it contains show the special characteristics of English art, though it cannot be affirmed that the manuscript does not also present signs of continental influence, perhaps German. The first miniature (plate X) represents St. Augustine with an open book in his hand, under a round arch, his figure standing out against a purple ground: to right and left are groups of disciples. The second miniature (plate XI), on the opposite righthand page, is divided into two compartments; in the upper one are seen six persons, holding a scroll and tablets, engaged in discussion; and in the lower one seven persons in the same attitude, one of them wearing a low mitre of antique form. The third miniature has been reproduced by the New Palaeographical Society (Part. VI. pl. 138). The fourth miniature (plate XII) represents the City of God. The MS. has richly decorated initials.

XIII-XIX. Domenico Lenzi "Il Biadajolo". MS. on vellum. XIV. cent. 270 mm. × 386 mm. (Laur. Tempiano n. 3).

This is a kind of ledger in which Domenico Lenzi, corn-chandler, almost daily wrote, in a fine Italian Gothic hand with frequent rubrics, the prices of corn and oats in the piazza of Or San Michele from 1320 to 1335, adding, with a moral purpose, city news specially concerning harvests and famines. It is ornamented by an initial letter in which Abundance is represented, and by 8 full-page miniatures executed undoubtedly by a Tuscan artist. Plate XIII is meant to represent the driving out of the poor from Siena during the famine of 1328-1330, but in it we have a view of Florence with the arms of Siena, and there are to be seen the first city walls, the Porta del Vescovado, Santa Reparata, the campanile of the Badia, and Giotto's Tower not yet completed. Plate XIV shows the same walls, the Porta del Vescovado, the Baptistery, the campanile of the Badia, the tower of the

Bargello, and other edifices of the time, and the compassionate welcome which, during the famine, the priors and the citizens of Florence extended to the poor, giving them wherewith to satisfy their hunger. Plate XV depicts a harvest scene: people mowing, thrashing corn and gathering it in with joyful faces, while above is an angel from whose mouth there issue through a trumpet the words "con allegrezza ogn' uom canti cho meco" and "voi abbondate in fructi e in benedi[zioni]". Behind the angel is a hand grasping a third trumpet from which issue the words: "posso rimuover tueto, me ringrazia!". Plate XVI shows the corn-market in a year of plenty, and above are two angels, one of them shouting through three trumpets "chon allegrezza ogn' uomo canti cho meco", - "in dovizia fa ben che mal non segua" - and "tropp' aver ben non ti faccia peggiore". Plate XVII represents another harvest scene: above is the menacing monster of hunger, and the angel, the twisted and broken trumpets falling from his hands, is seen flying towards the heavens exclaiming: "torno e lor lascio in alpestre pastura ": two arms extended from a cloud on high, await the celestial messenger with the words "rimenato m' a in ciel più netta e pura". Plate XVIII shows us the corn-market of Or San Michele in a year of famine, with the miraculous tabernacle of the Virgin, as it must have been before the later embellishments, with the official sitting at the bench with the candle lighted for the contracts. Great confusion reigns in the market; some appear to be quarrelling, others are weeping and lamenting: standing out among the crowd are guards armed with lance and shield who have come up to still the tumult. High above is an outstretched hand, the hand of God, delivering a sword to the monster of hunger, which in response to the divine words "l'anima serva e il corpo sia punito", answers "io farò come tu m'ai largito". From the wings of this Devil issue the lines "piangi ch' ai donde ch' addietro il ben torna", "in fame in charo vi farò dolere", "duol sopra duol che dio ci lascia al peggio ". The angel, his broken trumpets falling earthwards, is seen flying towards the cloud shouting: "gioconda allegra son dentro al mio sito". Plate XIX affords us a view of Colle di Valdelsa from whose gates come forth unladen beasts of burden on their way to Fiorenza and laden ones on their way to Pisa, to record

the fact that the citizens of that place refused to send to Florence the promised corn in order to sell it a little dearer to Pisa.

XX-XXII. VITA SANCTI ANTONII ABBATIS. MS. on vellum. XIV cent. 366 mm. \times 270 mm. (Laur. Med. Pal. 143).

The MS. contains the life and miracles of St. Anthony Abbot and was compiled by Friar Johannes Marcellarii, sacristan to the Monastery of St. Anthony at Vienne in France, by order of Friar Johannes da Montecanuto, cellarer of the Monastery, who likewise caused the miniatures to be executed. The MS. was presented to Pope Eugenius IV, probably during the Florentine Council of 1439. It contains 201 miniatures, one on each page, and almost all standing out in white and gray, illuminated in gold, from a green and red background. The miniature in Plate XX represents St. Anthony restoring speech to a woman's son, binding her not to reveal the miracle during the life of the Saint. In Plate XXII the Saint is portrayed in a vessel with the nuncios who are to bear him to land. In Plate XXII demons are seen wounding the Saint, Satan fearing that he would live in the hermitage. These miniatures belong to the French school and are of singular importance regarding the history of costume.

XXIII. EVANGELISTARIUM. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 285 mm. × 415 mm. (Laur. Aedilium. Eccl. Flor. 115).

Besides the elegant miniatures of the first page, (plate XXIII), this MS. contains 34 initial letters enclosing small scenes of extraordinarily fine execution and 37 beautiful vignettes of the Florentine school, perhaps from the hand of Filippo di Matteo Torelli. At the end is inscribed "Scribere cum penna docet me Sancta Maria. Talis sum scriptor Augustinus nomine vocor. MCCCCLXVI". The MS. still bears the original binding in red velvet with clasps of cloth of gold and silver niellos attributed by Bandini to Maso Finiguerra. An ancient tradition affirms that this book lay on the altar in the Chapel of the Duomo, during the mass, on the day of the conspiracy of the Pazzi (26 April 1478).

XXIV-XXVIII. HORAE B. MARIAE VIRGINIS. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 199 mm. \times 153 mm. (Laur. Ashburnham. 1874).

This Book of Hours, illuminated for Lorenzo de' Medici by Francesco d'Antonio del Cherico, and written in a most elegant hand by Antonio Sinibaldi in 1485, is one of the marvels of Florentine art. The miniatures, unequalled for perfection of execution and richness of composition, occupy 9 full pages: nor are lacking ornamented figure-initials, and small scenes for every month in the calendar with which the Book of Hours begins. Plate XXIV, with which the Office of the Blessed Virgin begins, shows the Annunciation, the Nativity, and the coming of the Magi to the stable, and within the initial the Madonna and Child. Plate XXV, with which the Office of the Dead begins, has two small scenes illustrating an episode from the legend of S. Macario, and the Resurrection of Lazarus. Plate XXVI has, at the beginning of the seven Penitential psalms, the figure of David prostrate before the Lord, and, within the initial, David on the throne with a Prophet standing before him. Plate XXVII represents the Crucifixion, and, in the initial at the beginning of the Office of the Cross, the Ecce Homo. In Plate XXVIII, before the small Office of the Cross, are a representation of the Deposition and, in the initial, the Kiss of Judas. Nothing could be more marvellous than this Book of Hours worthy indeed of the Magnifico. For the ornamentation the miniaturist has drawn from every possible decorative element, so that this small MS. may be said to form, as it were, an encyclopaedia of decorative art, while in the admirable miniatures the goldsmith's art itself is surpassed in richness and splendour. The MS. was restored to the Medicean collection after having been taken abroad at some undetermined period: in the seventeenth century it was in Belgium and belonged to the de Merode family. It was purchased by the Italian Government in 1884 with the Ashburnham collection, of which it is one the most precious gems.

XXIX-XXXII. ROMULEON, J. MIELOT INTERPRETE. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 410 mm. × 280 mm. 2 vols. (Laur. Med. Pal. 156).

This "Romuleon", a compendium of Roman history, was transla-

ted from the Latin into French by Jean Miélot, canon of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter's in Lille, for Philip, Duke of Burgundy and written by David Aubert, official calligraphist, from 1464 to 1465. From Philip the Good, who died in 1467, the MS. passed into the hands of Charles the Bold who kept it by him even on the field, and was probably taken as spoil of war by Réné II, surnamed De Vaudemont, when he defeated Charles the Bold under the walls of Nancy. The son of Réné, Anthony the Good, had it divided into two tomes on the 6th of June 1510, and from the library of the Dukes of Lorraine the manuscript passed to the Laurenziana after their coming to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany. The 14 fine miniatures that adorn it are the work of Loiset Liédet, one of the official illuminators to Philip and Charles, Dukes of Burgundy, and were finished almost certainly before 1467. For their excellence and freshness these miniatures may be compared with those of the Histoire de Charles Martel in the Royal Library at Brussels, executed by the same artist. The miniature of the proem (Plate XXIX) portrays David Aubert, the Court calligraphist, being charged by the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good, with the work of executing a copy of the Romuleon. The one at the beginning of the third book (Plate XXX) represents Coriolanus being beseeched by Veturia, his mother, and Volumnia, his wife, to save Rome. The miniature preceding the tenth book (Plate XXXI) represents two episodes in the Life of the Emperor Hadrian written by Elio Sparziano: in the first there is the triumph of Trajan, the simulacrum being seen; in the other, the emperor endeavouring to run himself through with his sword, but withheld by the prefect and his son. The miniature on Plate XXXII represents the 10 Sibyls.

XXXIII. C. PLINIUS, HISTORIA NATURALIS. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 278 mm. \times 417 mm. (Laur. Plut. LXXXII. 3).

This is one of the many MSS. illuminated for Pietro di Cosimo de Medici, in whose writing are the words at the end: "Liber Petri de Medicis Cos. fil.". The rich and varied ornamentation is formed of a kind of white arabesque of intertwining tendrils on a plain ground,— a style of ornamentation used especially and with great taste and

skill by the Florentine miniaturists, — interspersed with figures of animals, puttos, and pretty heads looking out from a gilt frame running round the whole page along the centre of the ornamental border. In the hollow of the initial L are three rings set with a diamond, the emblem of Pietro de' Medici; and in the lower part of the border, upheld by flying puttos and surrounded by cherubs' heads, is the Medicean coat of arms with the nine red balls and the motto Semper.

XXXIV. PLUTARCHUS, VITAE. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 252 mm. \times 358 mm. (Laur. Plut. LXV. 26).

A very graceful border consisting of sprigs and flowers and gold spots interspersed with puttos and birds encloses the page, and at the foot in the centre of the border, there is a candelabrum with the Medicean coat of arms and four festoons of leaves and fruits, with the diamond rings from which issue the three Medicean plumes. In the initial Q there is a scene from the life of Theseus, who is depicted in the act of slaying the Minotaur. Between two diamond rings set on the upper part of the initial there is the name of the miniaturist Franciscus, while between two lower rings is written pin-xit. Francesco d'Antonio del Cherico, one of the most skilful of the Florentine miniaturists has in this case put his signature to his work; but without the signature, his hand would be recognizable in the elegance, liveliness and grace displayed in the decoration, and in the high excellence of the illumination. At the end of this MS. also are written the words: "Liber Petri de Medicis Cos. f.".

XXXV. JOSEPH FLAVIUS, DE BELLO JUDAICO. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 247 mm. \times 342 mm. (Laur. Plut. LXVI. 9).

As shown by the subscription at the end of the MS. it was "scriptus manu mei Gherardi Joannis del Ciriagio civis florentini pro Johanne Cosmae de Medicis cive optimo florentino". It was the same artist who, perhaps at a later time, illuminated the Plinius (plate XXXIII) which this Joseph Flavius (plate XXXV) resembles in the rich and varied arabesque-like ornamentation of intertwining tendrils, in the gilt

frame running round the page, and in the medallions containing singularly perfect scenes. The son of Cosimo, Giovanni, died in October 1463; so this MS. is necessarily of antecedent date.

XXXVI. P. Vergilius Maro, Aeneis. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 223 mm. \times 336 mm. (Laur. Plut. XXXIX. 6).

This Virgil is written in fine characters by a fifteenth century hand, and, on the first page, which has no miniature facing it on the leaf opposite, it has an ornamented and pictured border bearing the title of the work. The absence of any miniature on the opposite leaf, the fact that the initial which begins the text is almost independent of the scene adorning it, the larger hand, the cameos, the gems adorning the border with its plump and chubby puttos, all point to a new miniaturist whose manner recalls that of Gherardo. The arms of the Sassetti with the motto A mon pouvoir inform us that the present MS. is one of those that Francesco Sassetti (the man of letters and artist of this family of merchants, who was a partner of the Medici in their business, and who imitated them in their love of the arts) caused to be written and illuminated for his library, at a cost of over 800 florins. Francesco Sassetti was born in 1420 and died in 1491. The medallion at the top in the centre represents the Judgment of Paris: the one to the right, the Rape of Helen: the one to the right, half-way down the page, the departure of Aeneas from Carthage: the one lower down, Paris as a shepherd playing his pipes. The scene by the initial represents the entry of the wooden horse and the burning of Troy (plate XXXVI).

XXXVII. PAUSANIUS, GRAECIAE DESCRIPTIO. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 218 mm. × 334 mm. (Laur. Plut. LVI. 10).

The humanistic Greek writing with rubricated glosses in the margins, one of which, on the first page, the miniaturist has artistically set like an inscription on a tablet, shows that the MS. belongs to the second half of the fifteenth century. The miniature of the initial page is architectural in character, with columns and pilasters, between which are trophies of arms, cameos, gems and musical instruments. At the foot within

the border there is a coat of arms with bands argent on a field gules surmounted by a cross also of silver: and a side-view of the same coat of arms is also seen near the column on the right upheld by a winged putto of the prettiest shape. Light green and light red predominate in the miniature, which is evidently an intentional classical imitation, rarely met with in the Medicean MSS. (plate XXXVII).

XXXVIII-XLI. MISSALE ROMANUM. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 379 mm. × 280 mm. (Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 109).

This splendid missal was written for the Church of Santa Maria del Fiore by the priest Zanobio Moschini who finished his task in December 1493, and it was illuminated by the brothers Monte di Giovanni and Gherardo, two of the most perfect artists of the Florentine school, whose manner resembles that of Domenico Ghirlandaio. The verso of the first leaf (plate XXXVIII) bears the lily of Florence, the arms of the people and of the Comune, and the sheep that is the symbol of the Arte della Lana and of the Opera del Duomo. Within the garland, in letters of gold on a blue ground is the title of the MS. On the opposite page (plate XXXIX) the text begins, enclosed in a very rich border with candelabra, festoons, puttos, animals, and tondos containing the heads of Prophets. In the medallion at the top in the centre, is God the Father with a crown of Seraphs: in the one at the foot San Zanobi in the pontifical chair with a deacon on either side. The initial A encloses the figure of David playing the Psaltery. In the upper part of the page, in a miniature unequalled for beauty and excellence, there is a representation of the Annunciation. In plate XL, a rich frame encloses the text that is in two columns, and there is a miniature in the lower portion of the frame containing a tondo supported by angels in which is the *Ecce Homo*, whose countenance betrays the saddest emotion. Around the decoration, which is of architectural character with candelabra and symbols of the Passion, runs a rosary of pearls and gems, the execution of which gave the artist an opportunity of showing how the miniaturist's art could rival that of the goldsmith. In Plate XLI, also enclosed in a frame similar to the other, there is the Crucifixion, and below, in a kind of predella, the Deposition of Christ. The beauty of the composition is enhanced by the liveliness of the colours and the azure background of sky, against which stands out a view of Jerusalem with a long train of armed men on foot and on horseback entering the gate.

XLII-XLIII. PLOTINI VITA ET OPERA, M. FICINO INTERPRETE. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 243 mm. \times 353 mm. (Laur. Plut. LXXXII. 10).

The verso of the first leaf has a magnificent border, enclosing a tablet containing the title of the MS. and six tondos with the heads of Prophets and two Medicean coats of arms. Between the tondos are amorini, some of them supporting the Medicean arms and emblems, the ring with the three plumes and the motto Semper, and the green trunk with the motto Le temps revient, which is that of Piero, the son of Lorenzo dei Medici. Around the title runs a necklace of pearls, diamonds and other gems so real that it might almost seem a miraculous production of the goldsmith's art (plate XLII). On the opposite page (plate XLIII), containing the text which is in Italian characters of the end of the fifteenth century, there is an admirable border of a similar kind, with six tondos and figures of Prophets, the Medicean coat of arms with the blue ball adorned with lilies, and in the initial the portrait of Marsilio Ficino. This is one of the finest MSS, illuminated by Attavante degli Attavanti, for Piero di Lorenzo dei Medici, and in it are revealed all the skill and elegance of style of this artist, who certainly executed these miniatures alone, showing himself to be a perfect painter of figures and a pleasing and skilful painter of ornamentation.

XLIV-XLV. T. LIVIUS, HISTORIAE. MS. on vellum. XV cent. 258 mm. × 356 mm. (Laur. Plut. LXIII. 33).

This MS. was illuminated for Julian, duke of Nemours whose brother's emblem it bears — the yoke with the motto suave which was Leo the Tenth's — with the motto Par le feu reverdira and the initial N which are his own, besides other Medicean symbols and coats-of-arms. Plate XLV has a rich candelabrum with gems and tondos in the form of cameos. Plate XLIV contains other Medicean insignia

in the tondos such as the bees, the yoke, and the diamond ring with the three plumes. These miniatures which are of a most elaborate composition, reveal the hand of a new miniaturist which appears to us to resemble greatly the hand of Giovanni di Giuliano Boccardi called Boccardino (il vecchio), who perhaps worked also at the beginning of the XVI cent.

XLVI-XLVII. PSALTERIUM DAVID. MS. on vellum. XV cent. $367 \text{ mm.} \times 533 \text{ mm.}$ (Laur. Plut. XV. 17).

This is one of the most admirable MSS. that Monte and Gherardo ever illuminated, and was intended for that Corvinian Library that was dispersed almost ere it had been brought together. The precious volume, which was not yet complete when the king Matthias Corvinus died in 1490, did not leave Florence but was added to the collection of Lorenzo il Magnifico. The first of the miniatures (plate XLVI) depicts various episodes in the life of David, enclosed in a frame having two rich candelabra in the pilasters and classical bas-reliefs in the capitals. Remarkable are the figures of Matthias Corvinus, and of his natural son John, and Charles VIII who are seen one at either side of the king. In a kind of predella between the pedestals there is a representation of the anointing of David by the hand of Saul. The principal scene shows David prostrate before the Lord; on the right in the lower portion of the background there is a green landscape with a mill, and, on the other side, the shepherd David bending over the waters of a brook, in which his image is reflected, to pick up the stone with which in the upper portion of the background he is seen in the act of slaving the giant Goliath, before the walls of Jerusalem. In the sky is a flight of ravens, the bird that the King of Hungary took as a striking device. In this scene there is to be observed the influence that must have been exercised on the art of the miniaturist, and especially on the mode of conceiving a composition, by the engravings of Martin Schöngauer and Albert Dürer, which at that time became known in Florence, and which Gherardo, according to Vasari, set himself to imitate; hence in these miniatures an almost Flemish intimacy and sentimentality are noticeable. In the other miniature with which the text of the Psalter begins, there is seen a border of the same kind as those of Attavante with tondos enclosing busts of patriarchs and prophets, and puttos, cameos, and more circles with the arms of Hungary. The coat of arms below was left vacant and unfinished on account of the death of Matthias Corvinus. Very fine is the scene preceding the text, showing Hebrew horsemen led by David advancing against the Philistines coming out of their tents. In the background, which is divided into two parts by a green rock, there is a view of Hebron, and among its edifices are recognizable the Palazzo Vecchio, the loggia of Orcagna with four arches, and the little church of S. Piero Scheraggio. Under the incipit, in the figure of King Solomon, is seen the portrait of Matthias Corvinus. In fineness of composition and skilfulness of the foreshortening, the miniatures of this page vie with the most grandiose battle-scenes painted either in fresco or on panels.

XLVIII. Horatius, Carmina cum Francisci Petrarchae Adnotationibus. MS. on vellum. X cent. 184 mm. \times 261 mm. (Laur. Plut. XXXIV. 1.).

This MS., which contains the Carmina of Horace, is most valuable not only for its notable antiquity but also as it belonged to Francesco Petrarch whose ex libris: "Liber francisci petrarchae qui post obitum eius remaneat penes heredem suum" appears on the verso of the 2nd leaf. A brief note on the recto of the same leaf declares it to have been bought at Genoa, the 28th Nov. 1327 ("Emptus. Jan. 1327. November 280"). Against the Horatian text Petrarch has here and there made several annotations in his own hand: such for example is the one we reproduce (plate XLVIII) to be read in the left-hand margin, and beginning: "Ad iulium florum scribit hanc ultimam epistolam" etc.

XLIX. VARIORUM CARMINA. MS. on vellum. XIV cent. 208 mm. X 285 mm. (Laur. Paut. XXXIII. 31).

This rich Latin miscellany of writings in prose and verse, all by the hand of Giovanni Boccaccio, is well-known to those familiar with these antiquities, not only through the description by Bandini (Catal. Codd. latin. II. 124-128), but also through that given of it by Remigio Sabbadini in Le scoperte dei codici latini e greci ai secoli XIV e XV (Firenze, 1905). The page reproduced (plate XLIX) contains the end of the collection of the 80 Priapeia discovered by Boccaccio and transcribed by him in this MS. now considered the fundamental text.

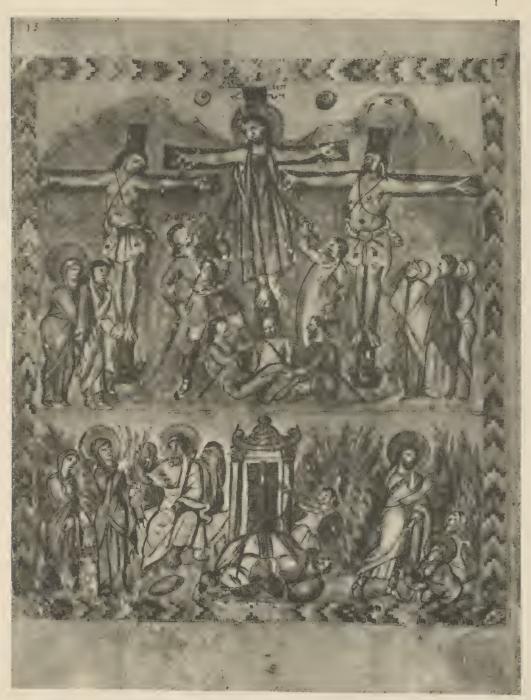
As is known, the *Priapeia* were generally attributed by the humanists of the XV century to Virgil, and Boccaccio, too, concurred in this attribution, for before the "Explicit Priapeia", contained in the page we reproduce, he had written "Priapeia Maronis Virgili explicit" of which the syllables NiS. Vir are still visible under the erasure.

L. HERODIANI HISTORIA, A. POLITIANO INTERPRETE. MS. on paper XV cent. 219 mm. × 298 mm. (Laur. Rinuccinianus 20).

It contains the autograph text of the Latin version that Angelo Poliziano made of the eight books of the Herodiani Historia de imperio

post Marcum, and dedicated to Innocent VIII.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Cibo being elected pontiff (29th August 1484, and taking the name of Innocent VIII), Poliziano, as he narrates in the Proem to his translation, had repaired to Rome with the Embassy of the Florentine Republic to do homage for Florence to the new Pope and was there invited by the latter to translate into Latin some Greek histories that should illustrate the deeds of the Roman emperors. On his return to Florence, Poliziano turned his attention to Herodianus who described the Imperial fasti from the year 180 up to his own day, and translated into Latin the eight books of this author, which on being presented to the pontiff, brought him high praise and a gift of 250 scudi. Our reproduction (plate L) shows leaf 21 recto of the autograph MS.



EVANGELIA SYRIACE CONSCRIPTA.

Cod. membr. sæc. VI.

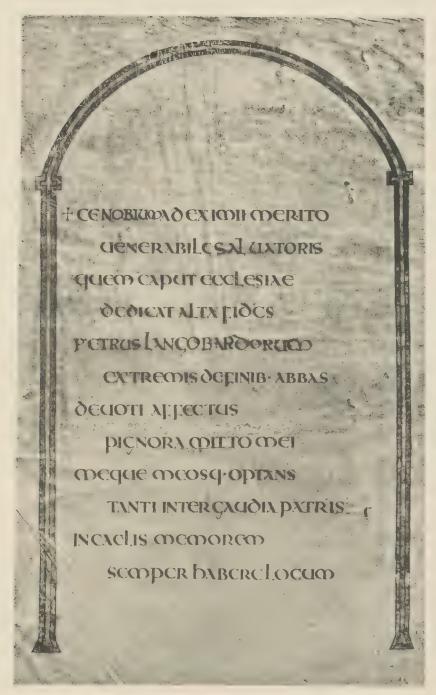
Laur. Plut. I. 56.



Evangelia syriace conscripta. Cod. membr. sæc. VI. Laur. Plut. I. 56.

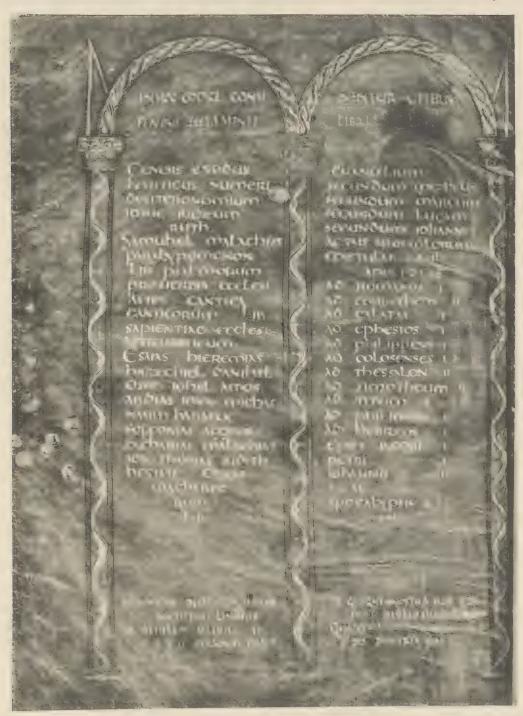


Evangelia syriace conscripta. Cod. membr. sæc. VI. Laur. Plut. I. 56.



VETUS ET NOVUM TESTAMENTUM.
Cod. membr. sæc. VII.-VIII.

Laur. Amiatinus 1.



Vetus et Novum Testamentum. Cod. membr. sæc. VII-VIII. Laur. Amiatinus 1.

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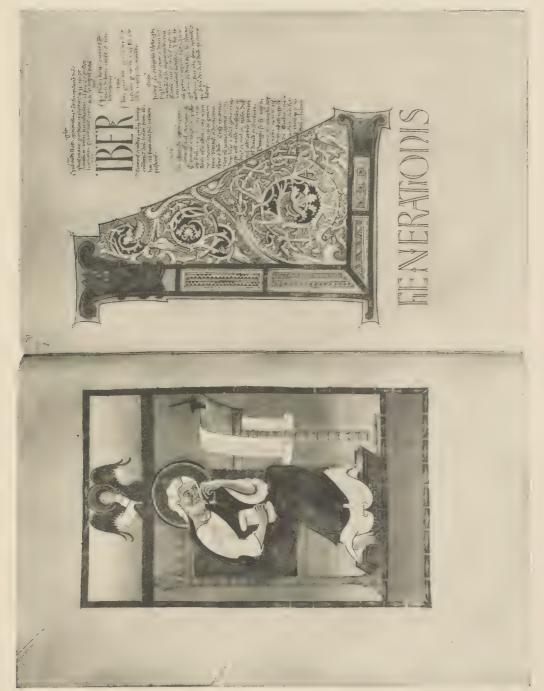


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VETUS ET NOVUM TESTAMENTUM. Cod. membr. sæc. VII-VIII. Laur. Amiatinus 1.



EVANGELIARIUM.
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Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 91.





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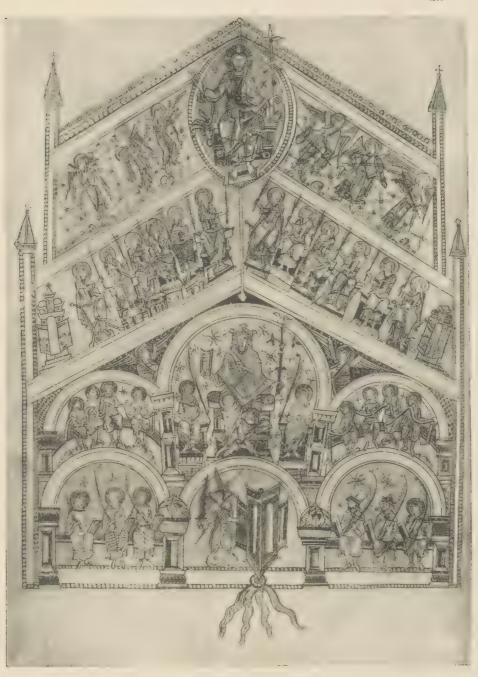
EVANGELIARIUM.
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Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 9r.



D. AUGUSTINUS - DE CIVITATE DEI.
Cod. membr. sæc. XIII.
Laur. Plut. XII. 17.



D. Augustinus - De Civitate Dei. Cod. membr. sæc. XIII. Laur. Plut. XII. 17.



D. Augustinus - De Civitate Dei. Cod. membr. sæc. XIII. Laur. Plut. XII. 17.



Domenico Lenzi «Il Biadajolo ». Cod. membr. sæc. XIV in. . Laur. Tempiano n. 3.



Domenico Lenzi «Il Biadajolo». Cod. membr. sæc. XIV in. Laur. Tempiano n. 3.



Domenico Lenzi «Il Biadajolo». Cod. membr. sæc. XIV in. Laur. Tempiano n. 3.



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VITA SANCTI ANTONII ABBATIS. Cod. membr. sæc. XIV. Laur.' Med. Pal. 143, fol. 32...



VITA SANCTI ANTONII ABBATIS. Cod. membr. sæc. XIV. Laur. Med. Pal. 143, fol. 37.



VITA SANCTI ANTONII ABBATIS. Cod. membr. sæc. XIV. Laur. Med. Pal. 143, fol. 14.

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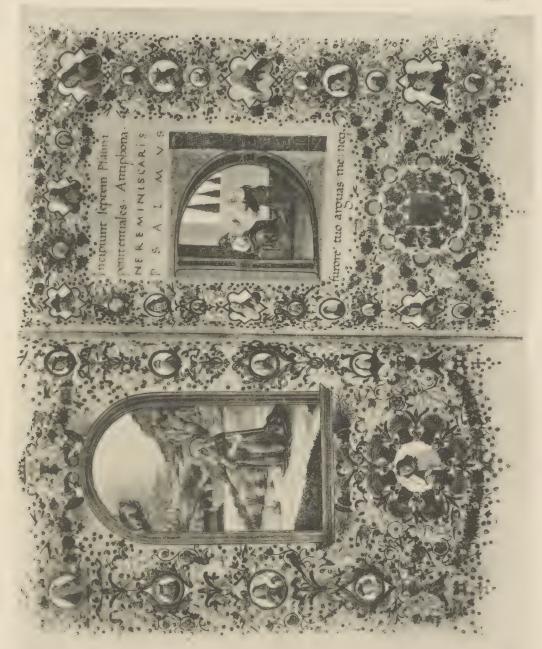
> EVANGELISTARIUM. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Aedilium Eccl. Flor. 115.



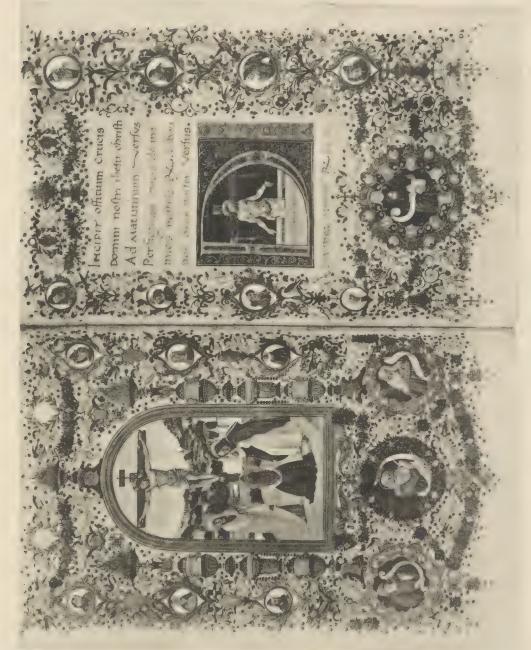
HORAE B. MARIAE VIRGINIS.
Cod. membr. sæc. XV.
Laur. Ashburnhamensis 1875.



Horae B. Mariae Virginis. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Ashburnhamensis 1875.



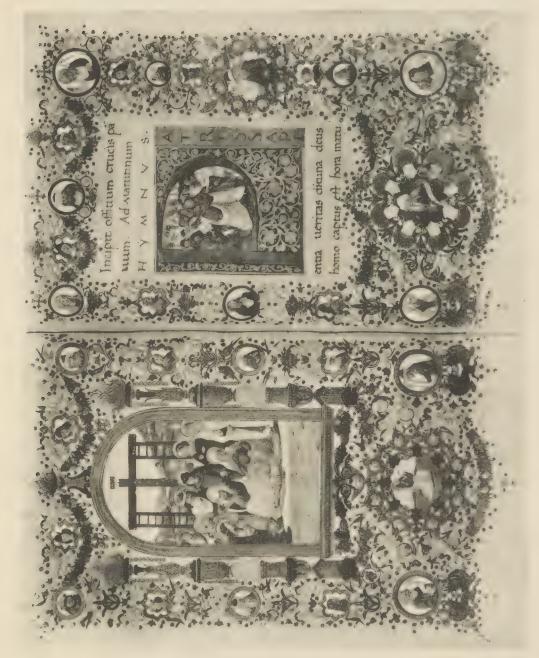
HORAE B. MARIAE VIRGINIS.
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Laur. Ashburnhamensis 1875.



HORAE B. MARIAE VIRGINIS.

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Laur. Ashburnhamensis 1875.



HORAE B. MARIAE VIRGINIS.
Cod. membr. sæc. XV.
Laur. Ashburnhamensis 1875.



leon pour ce quil traite de fair des tomame da pieca fait et compose en latin a linstance dun tres vaillant-cheuallier espaignol nome monseigneur Sometz de albornoce. Et naguaires lan de grace unl cece sopante. Par le comandement et ordonnance de Trespault Trespiussant et Trespocillent prince. Phelippe par la strace de dien. Duc de bourgoingne.

« ROMULEON » J. MIÉLOT INTERPRETE. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Med. Pal. 156.1.



Du sont descripte les fais des tomame depuis le tempe que tome fut prinse par les sumans Jusques a la seande bataille punique Cest a dur de austrique Cet contrent en son bingt et sept chapitus.

" Letien line.



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« ROMULEON » J. MIÉLOT INTERPRETE. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Med. Pal. 156.1.



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«Romuleon» J. Miélot interprete. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Med. Pal. 156.2. Espion laffercom tende a Indibulie lequel Litue lume appelle luceme bug procedes Celtiberiene sa femme non brolee zat?

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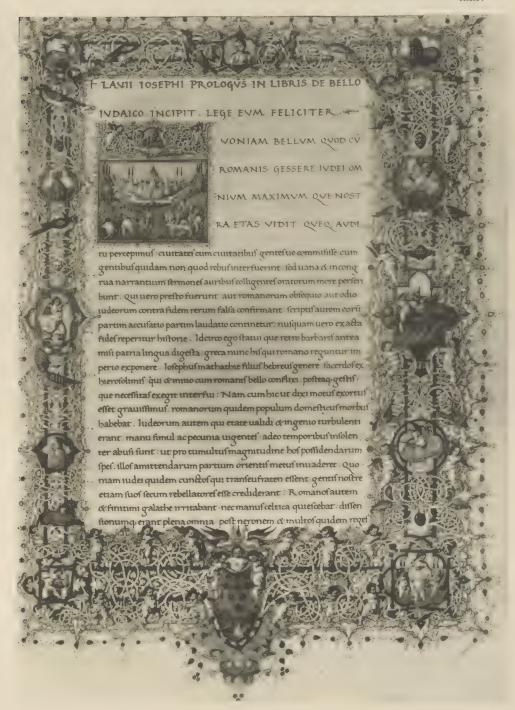
« Romuleon » J. Miélot interprete. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Med. Pal. 156.2.



C. PLINIUS. HISTORIA NATURALIS. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LXXXII. 3.



PLUTARCHUS . VITAE. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LXV. 26.



JOSEPH FLAVIUS . DE BELLO JUDAICO. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LXVI. 9.



P. Vergilius Maro . Aeneis. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. XXXIX. 6.



Pausanias , Graeciae Descriptio. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LVI. 10.



Missale Romanum. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 109.



Missale Romanum. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 109.



MISSALE ROMANUM. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 109.



MISSALE ROMANUM. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Aedilium Flor. Eccl. 109.



PLOTINI VITA ET OPERA, M. FICINO INTERPRETE.

Cod. membr. sæc. XV.

Laur. Plut. LXXXII. 10.



PLOTINI VITA ET OPERA, M. FICINO INTERPRETE.

Cod. membr. sæc. XV.

Laur. Plut. LXXXII. 10.



T. LIVIUS . HISTORIAE. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LXIII. 33.



T. LIVIUS . HISTORIAE. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. LXIII. 33.



PSALTERIUM DAVID.
Cod. membr. sæc. XV.
Laur. Plut. XV. 17.



PSALTERIUM DAVID. Cod. membr. sæc. XV. Laur. Plut. XV. 17.

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o ago this endicord y ero

Cum seriptore meo capsa por rectusoperta. peferar in useum uendentem till et odorel Et piper. et quiequid earuf amienur mepul. AD FLORUM AMICUM SUUM. lore bono claroq; fidelif amice neroni. Siquif force uela puera abi vendere nati Libure uel gabits et tecum sie agar hie et Candiduf et talof a vertice pulcher ad imos fice erreq: will nummore milibuf octo Vierna miniferry ad num sput heriles. Interulif greet imbutuf idoneuf arti Cullbet arquela quaduf imitabitur uda. Quin etiam caner indocrum sed dulce bibenti. Multa fidem promissa leuant ubi plenius eque l'and at uenales qui unte extrudere merces. Refurger me nulla meo fum pauper in cre.
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> Variorum Carmina. Cod. membr. sæc. XIV ex. Laur. Plut. XXXIII. 31, fol. 45".

The dis lamand nonandog collecta fin netwo I mon p pinum lihi, temere in terbibit. quen flamin caps. wednet astorbus , and Toporon players: mid for of labor Perdare omnes confeshing a zo & sua quetya dom It wis who's may ox ebrietare remerki milet. not so mi indigum Com nimia favor confuencional Ham um at balners unt Spergofaterone. epilis opera daret million be boby & findering for 3 quest sommes suggest alive in ships ushiplates: egg The former directe faire jib homing & muitum quo and tempore Subjectant panxilliam igr en regesser as in alph motion of alux women is front of information is legine nomibis & for nimus of Securis & fait is vibe. quem affation and fumpsyles muting more pohone were exportant : ferrit day pringits mos e: not norm aportioned ente un que wenene yntefanter! Ceter amilia ene muster unit ill ne nenenge eni crede refipeforer seg win omnis from moraret plunter min mento her cisto mi dam andan de promog a holefore; Vijmuh aslo Commadu Annaulant. Hune fire were Commodu's Induit ; frediam amos post pannis elisum spio

HERODIANI HISTORIA, A. POLITIANO INTERPRETE.

Cod. chart. sæc. XV.

Laur. Rinuccinianus 20.

